



Investor Quick Facts

Nigeria's Eastern Heartland and Africa's Emerging Digital Economy Powerhouse



Governor Statement

Dear Esteemed Investor,

Welcome to Imo, the heartbeat of South-East Nigeria and a rising digital economy powerhouse for Africa.

Our promise is simple. We will protect your capital, empower our people with skills and move every project from concept to cash flow at a record pace.

Already, Skill Up Imo has graduated 90,000 young technologists while ImoTalentHub.com connects them to global employers.

We have built night-ready airport runways, new dual-carriage highways, and a fibre backbone into every local government.

Yet our greatest asset remains the resilience and creativity of Imolites. Olympian Chioma Ajunwa, football star Kelechi Iheanacho and Nollywood icons Genevieve Nnaji and Rita Dominic were all nurtured by this land.

We are now deliberately turning that talent into investable sectors: sports academies, film villages, content studios, hospitality hubs and world-class arenas.

Join us. Let us create ventures that deliver extraordinary returns and shared prosperity.

Sincerely,

Senator Hope Uzodimma

Executive Governor, Imo State

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Executive Snapshot

This section distils headline facts every investor should know at a glance.

01



Governor Hope Uzodimma's second term is powered by a 10-year Shared Prosperity Blueprint running from 2024 to 2034.



The Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone unlocks gas-led manufacturing with export clearance in 48 hours.



Imo State government has partnered with the Hilton Group to rebrand and manage the Concord Hotel, which will become the first Hilton property in the region. Global hospitality leaders, Protea by Marriott also have a world class hotel in the state.



Imo State sits at the core of South East Nigeria, placing more than 40 million consumers within a 3-hour logistics window.

500,000

Skill Up Imo and ImoTalentHub form Africa's largest public digital talent pipeline, targeting 500,000 Thousands of global placements.



Sam Mbakwe International Airport is one of the busiest airports in the country with significant potential to accelerates trade and commerce in the region.

Imo Rising: In Numbers

A snapshot of why Nigeria's Eastern Heartland is your next big investment destination.

01 – Population



6 million

Residents — a strong consumer base and workforce

02 – GDP Size



\$19 billion

Economy — ranked among Nigeria's top five state economies

03 – GDP Per Capita (PPP)



\$7,828

One of the highest in Nigeria

04 – Average Literacy Rate



96.43%

Highest literacy level in Nigeria

05 – Female Youth Literacy



83.5%

Top-ranking in Nigeria, powering gender-inclusive growth

06 – Infrastructure Rating



8.7/10

Leading rating among Nigerian states for roads, utilities, and connectivity

07 – Business Registration Time



7 days

The fastest registration process in Nigeria

Wage review section: Beginning August 2025, Imo State approved the highest minimum wage in Nigeria. This bold step positioned the state as a national leader in worker welfare. The move reflects improved governance and fiscal discipline. It has also drawn praise from labour unions and set a benchmark for others to follow.

Why Imo, Why Now

A concise case for immediate entry,
spotlighting macro and micro triggers
that create first mover advantage.

02



State GDP ranks among Nigeria's top 5 yet remains underpenetrated in high-value services.



Business Enabling Reform Action Plan guarantees statutory timelines on permits with penalties on officials for delays.



Hotel key density remains below 2 keys per 1,000 inhabitants, presenting unmatched headroom for hospitality development.



Diaspora remits about 3 billion USD annually, fuelling consumer and housing demand.



Fitch review April 2025 places Imo among the 3 states capable of meeting the new federal wage bill without distress.



Rapid urbanisation and a median age of 19 years deliver a dynamic consumer base receptive to sports, entertainment and e-commerce.

03

Governor Hope Uzodimma's Vision and 10-Year Plan

An overview of the Governor's long-range blueprint and governance model anchoring predictable execution.

10-Year Plan

by Gov. Hope Uzodimma

The Shared Prosperity Blueprint rests on 6 pillars: industrialisation, human capital, infrastructure, security, governance and sustainability.

Targets include a poverty headcount below 10 percent, creation of 300,000 new formal jobs and universal urban electricity by 2029.

A Monthly Deal Acceleration Council, chaired by the Governor, tracks every investment file until financial close.

Digital governance has reduced average turnaround on land titles to 30 days.





State Profile

Core geography, climate and demographic context that frame investment risk and opportunity.

04



4.1 Geography and Climate

- Land area stands at about 5,100 square kilometres of fertile rainforest terrain.
- Annual rainfall averages 2,200 millimetres, supporting two planting cycles.
- Oguta Lake connects to the Niger Delta waterways and is planned for an inland port.



4.2 Demographics and Workforce

- Population approximates 6 million with a median age of 19 years and youth literacy above 80 percent.
- An active diaspora of close to 2 million channels remittances and global skills back home.



Infrastructure Backbone

Transport, power and digital assets
underpinning new growth corridors.

05





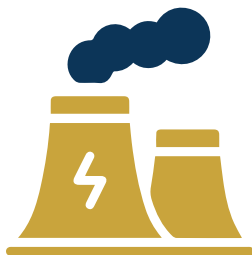
5.1 Air Connectivity and Cargo Potential

- Night landing operations commenced May 2025; runway accommodates B767 freighters.
- Cargo apron expansion will double tonnage capacity by 2026.



5.2 Road, Rail and Port Corridors

- Dual carriageway links Owerri to Port Harcourt in 90 minutes.
- Eastern Rail Corridor revitalisation includes a planned spur to Owerri industrial park.
- Oguta Lake inland port will integrate with Onitsha and Warri seaports.



5.3 Power and Digital Infrastructure

- A 30 megawatt embedded gas plant will power industrial clusters by 2026.
- Statewide fibre backbone is live, and 5G rollout began in June 2025.

06

Economic Performance and Fiscal Health

Key indicators that demonstrate fiscal capacity and growth momentum.

- State GDP recorded a compound growth rate of 5 percent between 2020 and 2024.
- Internally generated revenue rose 28 percent year on year in 2023.
- Services contribute 42 percent to GDP, agriculture 26 percent and oil and gas 19 percent.



Human Capital Engine

How Imo is cultivating a future ready
workforce that lowers expansion risk.

07



7.1 Skill Up Imo

- Africa's fastest growing public tech academy with a target to train 500,000 tech talents
- Co-designed with the US Market Access Centre and the University of California Berkeley Sutardja Center.
- Target of 100,000 global tech placements by 2026.



ImoTalentHub
POWERED BY SKILL-UP IMO

7.2 ImoTalentHub.com

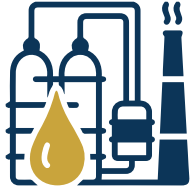
- Digital marketplace for verified freelancers and full-time hires.
- Labour cost is 30 percent below other similar talent clusters while maintaining comparable retention.



Priority Opportunity Clusters

Sector specific deal lanes with demonstrable demand and state support.

08



8.1 Energy and Petrochemicals

- 163 producing wells with light crude and associated gas.
- The Orashi Free Zone grants zero customs duty and a 10-year corporate tax holiday.
- Licences available for gas flare commercialisation and modular refineries.



8.2 Digital Talent and Outsourcing

- Class A office space in Owerri averages 8 United States dollars per square metre monthly.
- Latency registers below 30 milliseconds to European nodes, ideal for contact centres and SaaS engineering.



8.3 Agro Processing and Food Security

- Adapalm estate produces 60,000 tonnes of palm oil each year.
- Cassava belt output supports starch, chips and ethanol factories with ready land bank incentives.



8.4 Manufacturing and Industrial Parks

- Imo Industrial Park provides serviced plots, dedicated power and on-site customs services.
- Afrexim Bank backed Africa Quality Assurance Centre issues EU and US certificates within 72 hours



8.5 Tourism, Hospitality and MICE

- Oguta Lake Resort expansion includes waterfront villas and a water sports academy.
- Protea, BON and Swiss International hotels confirm climbing demand for mid scale and upscale keys.
- Hilton Group partnership births the first Hilton in the region, with Marriott also confirming its presence through the Bonvoy brand. These global entries signal rising investor confidence and position Imo as an emerging hub for upscale hospitality.
- The Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu International Convention Centre (EIICC) is a world class venue to be commissioned in Q4 2025, positioning Imo State as a premier destination for global events and commerce.
- A 5,000 seat International Convention Centre opens Q3 2026.



8.6 Real Estate and Urban Renewal

- Mortgage to GDP ratio remains below 1 percent, signalling untapped housing finance.
- Digital land registry issues certificates of occupancy in 30 days.



8.7 Sports and Creative Economy

- Home of Olympic gold long jumper Chioma Ajunwa, Premier League star Kelechi Iheanacho and Super Eagles Legend Nwankwo Kanu underscoring potential for elite sports academies.
- Heartland FC stadium upgrade presents opportunities for naming rights and sport tourism.
- Birthplace of Nollywood icons Genevieve Nnaji, Rita Dominic and Kanayo O Kanayo with a growing pipeline of film productions.
- Proposed Imo Film Village will offer tax rebates and fast track permits for studios, post production houses and streaming platforms.
- Annual Mbari Cultural Festival and New Yam celebrations attract diaspora traffic ripe for merchandising and experiential tourism.



8.8 Hospitality and Leisure Investment

- Hotel key density stands at about 1.2 keys per 1,000 inhabitants, illustrating ground floor entry for branded residences and aparthotels.
- Pipeline includes Radisson select service, Protea Courtyard and independent boutique concepts.
- A golf and wellness resort at Oguta Lake is seeking equity partners.
- Demand drivers include returning diaspora, film crews, corporate retreats and sports tournaments.

09

Competitive Incentives and Business Climate

Fiscal and regulatory sweeteners that
accelerate return on investment.

- 5 year corporate tax holiday for pioneer sectors spanning renewable energy, technology, agro processing, film production and sports facilities.
- Duty free import of plant and equipment in the Orashi Free Zone and Imo Film Village.
- Land rebate up to 50 percent on projects above 10 million United States dollars.
- Fast track commercial court delivers rulings within 60 days.

ESG, Sustainability and Impact

Imo's structured approach to responsible, green and inclusive growth.

- Imo Green Bond Framework launching 2026 will fund solar mini grids, efficient irrigation and erosion control.
- Carbon credit monetisation support is available for reforestation and gas flare capture projects.

10

Diaspora, Development Finance and Global Partnerships

Capital and network multipliers that
de risk projects at scale.

- Active memoranda with Afreximbank, Africa Finance Corporation and UK Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility support blended finance.
- Diaspora Investment Desk offers partial risk guarantees and matching grants on qualifying ventures.



12 Recent Deals and Success Stories

Evidence of traction that validates the investment thesis.

- Global Green Bioenergy committed 50 million United States dollars to a biodiesel plant near Oguta Lake, closed 2024.
- Marriott Protea Hotel Owerri, opened 2017, sustained average occupancy of 65 percent in 2024.
- Africa House Future Forum showcase at Davos January 2025 generated 10 inbound investment missions.
- Governor Hope Uzodimma has completed the Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu International Conference Centre, transforming it into a world-class venue for major events. The centre positions Owerri and Imo State as a credible destination for international conferences, business summits, and cultural gatherings. With this project, Imo strengthens its reputation as a hub of commerce.

13 Pipeline Projects and PPP Menu

Live mandates seeking capital, technology and expertise.

- A 30 megawatt embedded gas plant EPC partner opportunity.
- Oguta Lake inland port concession model with projected cargo volume of 1 million tonnes annually.
- 375-380 megawatt Egbema Thermal Power Station in Imo State is expected to be completed and commissioned in 2025, in partnership with China Machinery Engineering (CMEC). The project will use gas turbines to boost power grid and provide electricity for communities in the region
- New Heartland Sports Arena, a 40,000 seat stadium PPP, is seeking a lead investor.

14 Risk Mitigation and Security Framework

Systems in place to safeguard people, assets and continuity.

- Joint Security Taskforce integrates federal, state and community policing for rapid response.
- Construction peace committees ensure local buy in and equitable benefit sharing.
- An investor hotline operates 24 hours for incident escalation.

15 Investor Aftercare and One Stop Shop

Post entry support that guarantees long term operational success.

- ISIPA single window houses immigration, customs, land and environmental desks in one office.
- A relationship manager is assigned within 48 hours of a letter of intent.
- Post investment issues are resolved within 72 hours by escalation protocol.

16 Appendix A: Key Metrics at a Glance

- GDP 2024 estimate: 19 billion United States dollars
- Population: 6 million
- Literacy rate: 80 percent
- Broadband coverage: 100 percent of local governments
- Oil reserves: 1 billion barrels equivalent
- Hotel key density: 1.2 keys per 1,000 inhabitants

17 Glossary

OSEFTZ Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone

SIPA Imo State Investment Promotion Agency

Skill Up Imo Government digital academy

ImoTalentHub.com State digital talent marketplace





Reach out to initiate site visits, receive sector deal books and schedule executive briefings.

Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA)

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